



Pages from the Past

Join The Team That Makes The Difference... Felony Officer Team



Florida Highway Patrol Troopers Can Make The Difference



Special Felony Officer Team

The Felony Officer Team is a specialized unit of the Florida Highway Patrol. It is composed of troopers who have been selected for their exceptional skills and experience in handling felony cases.

The team is responsible for a variety of tasks, including conducting investigations, making arrests, and providing support to other units. They are also involved in community outreach and public relations.

The Felony Officer Team is a highly trained and dedicated unit. They are committed to providing the highest level of service to the public and to the state of Florida.

The team is currently accepting applications for troopers. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact the Florida Highway Patrol at (888) 368-7273.

Robert J. Smith
Trooper, Felony Officer Team

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Qualifications

Must be a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) with a minimum of two years experience.

Must have achieved performance standards for the past two years.

Must have a good record with the state of Florida, including no criminal record.

How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a Felony Officer, please contact the Florida Highway Patrol at (888) 368-7273. Please include your resume and a letter of interest in your application.



K-9's Join the Florida Highway Patrol

In December of 1983 the Florida Highway Patrol took the first step forward in the establishment of the Canine Program by sending four canine teams to a twelve week school conducted by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

The K-9 teams were trained, under the supervision of Sergeant Fred Wheeler of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department, for 12 weeks in obedience, agility, tracking, building searches, criminal apprehension and the detection of drugs. The dogs were trained to detect cannabis, cocaine, heroin and methaqualone pills.

The four teams graduated on February 24, 1984, and were soon on the road chalking up some impressive arrests in the first few months of the program. In the first seven months that the dogs patrolled Florida's highways drugs valued at over 7.5 million dollars (street value) were seized, 130 felony charges were made in connection with transporting of drugs and over \$60,000 cash was seized. In addition to routine patrol duties, the K-9's have been called to assist federal agencies, local police departments and sheriff's departments. These agencies have requested our K-9 Teams to search buildings, check suspect packages being shipped by bus and help to obtain evidence for search warrants that led to conviction of a drug trafficker in federal court.

While on routine patrol these dogs are professionals, however, when off-duty they have a completely different personality. At home the dogs are part of their families and completely compatible with other pets.

Each trooper and his canine are trained in all aspects of canine work which included obedience, attack, tracking and drugs. The primary use of these units is the detection of illegal drugs. They add an extremely helpful dimension to the patrol's war on drug trafficking.

By 1985 the patrol had twelve units with plans to enlarge the program to sixteen. Each troop had at least one unit with Troops K and E having two.

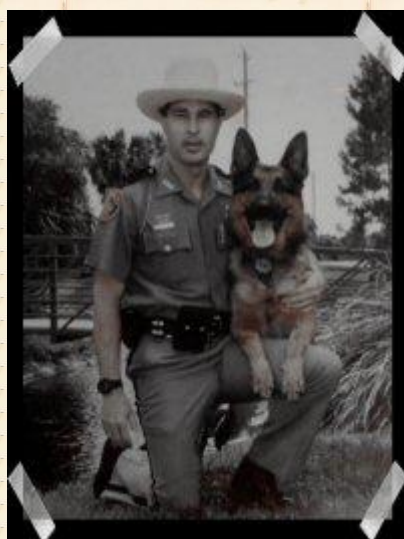
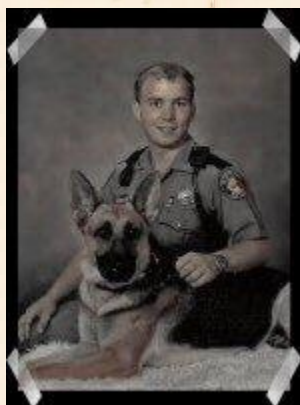
2004:

Fifty-seven troopers and supervisors comprise the Florida Highway Patrol Contraband Interdiction Program (CIP). These specially trained troopers, designated as felony officers and canine handlers, comprise twenty-two felony teams. Each felony team consists of two troopers and one canine. In conjunction with their primary mission, these troopers are strategically assigned throughout the state to patrol the interstate system and other highways in order to interdict illegal drugs and other criminal activity. Equipped with sophisticated drug detection equipment such as fiber optic scopes, drug detection devices, electronic measuring devices, dual purpose canines, and various other tools, these dedicated trooper have in the past five years seized over \$18.5 million of illegal drugs and other contraband, resulting in 6,089 criminal cases with 12,987 arrests.

Today...













Wednesday Aug 22, 1993.
Ex-City Officer Abducted

A former Tallahassee police officer was abducted early today near Monticello by a man believed to be an escapee from Raiford State Prison.

Barney Stalworth, now a trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol, was tied to a tree in a wooded area near Bronson by the man who then fled in his patrol car.

Col. Lee Simmons of the FHP said Stalworth, who works in the FHP's Monticello station, stopped a car for a minor traffic violation on U.S. 90 a few miles east of Monticello.

"When he walked to the car, the man had a gun and got the drop on him," Simmons said.

Simmons said the man ordered Stalworth to drive south in the patrol car and had him stop to pick up a hitchhiker en route.

The unidentified hitchhiker reported the

man said he had escaped from Raiford.

The man tied Stalworth to a tree near the Taylor County town of Salem and continued south, abandoning the patrol car when it ran out of gas near Bronson in Levy County, Simmons said.

Simmons said the man fled into the woods and the hitchhiker radioed for help on the patrol car radio.

"Trooper Stalworth worked himself free and walked to a road where he was picked up by other troopers who were out looking for him," Simmons said.

Stalworth served as a patrolman for the Tallahassee Police Department from August, 1960 until February, 1967 when he transferred to the FHP.

No one was injured in the incident, Simmons said. Sheriff's deputies from several surrounding counties have joined the search for the gunman.

THE BALLAD OF



BARNEY "THE NOSE"

Nobody's nose knows better than 'The Nose'

By JAN PUDLOW

Democrat staff writer

Chuck McMurry reached for the guitar hanging on his office wall and began singing the "judicial blues."

He was just another in a long string of defense lawyers who tried to tweak "The Nose" with legal strategy — and lost.

He'd gone to court optimistically armed with an olfactory expert who agreed it was humanly impossible for Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Barney Stallworth — nicknamed "The Nose" — to whiff marijuana in someone's hair while standing beside a truck rig, its diesel engine roaring.

But he still got shot down by the judge's dreaded words: "Motion denied."

His trusty guitar for comfort, he and his law partner, Raymond Impara, drank a few beers. With four clients snared by The Nose's legendary sniffing prowess, they had Barney on the brain. And they were frustrated.

Before the night was over, the pair had written the lyrics to "The Ballad of Barney 'The Nose.'"

Today, a quarter in a jukebox will play their country-rock song at the Office Lounge, Waterwood Saloon, Fred's Dry Dock and other bars around town.

Composed by McMurry, the ballad was recorded at Sweetbay Studios by the Gulf Coasters. McMurry played guitar and sang lead vocal with Mike Burton on drums, Tommy Roberts on guitar, Rob McKeithen on bass and Steve Gambrell on keyboards.

By next week, they hope to have their 45-single stocked at Tallahassee's record stores and aired on local radio stations. They say their only hope is to retrieve the \$1,000 spent on what they describe as a good-natured jab at Stallworth, the Big Bend's legendary pot hound.

"Everytime we came up against Barney, he beat us," McMurry said of that night a song was born. "We just figured he deserved an epithet."

McMurry's lead vocals ring out: "Many people passing by never make it back home, 'cuz he can

(Please see NOSE, page 2A)

Oil council knows 'Nose' is the best

By Ginny Graybiel
News Journal

Barney "The Nose" Stallworth, West Florida's dope-sniffing Highway Patrol trooper, Monday was named the Florida Petroleum Council's 1986 Trooper Of the Year.

Today, Gov. Bob Graham and the Cabinet will present Stallworth with a resolution recognizing his accomplishments. In addition, the trooper will get \$300 from the petroleum council, a pin for his uniform and three plaques — one to hang in the patrol's main training center, another for Escambia County's Troop A, and a third for Stallworth himself.

Sally Patrenos of the petroleum council, a trade organization representing major oil companies, said Stallworth was being recognized for a variety of law enforcement activities rather than a single act of bravery.

The mules — hired hands shuttling marijuana and cocaine across Florida highways — swear Stallworth can smell their illegal cargo.

In 1985 alone, for instance, he made 170 felony drug arrests; recovered nine stolen cars valued at \$67,200; apprehended nine felons wanted in other states; made 32 misdemeanor drug arrests; found 10 runaway juveniles; and seized \$1 million worth of drugs, \$117,280



Barney Stallworth: Honored as top trooper.

in cash, 77 cases of beer from juveniles, and 400 cartons of non-taxed cigarettes.

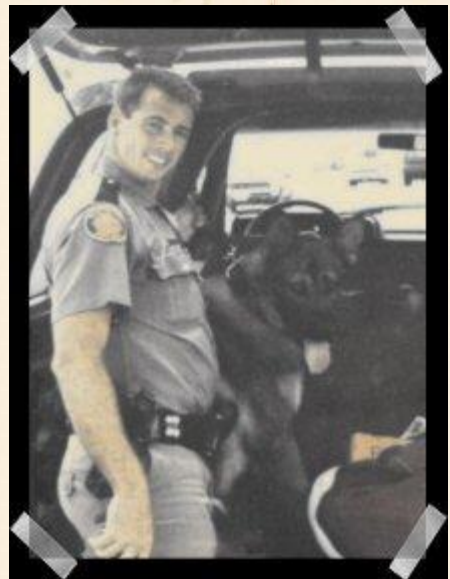
In addition, he provided intelligence information to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement from which 12 major drug cases were made.

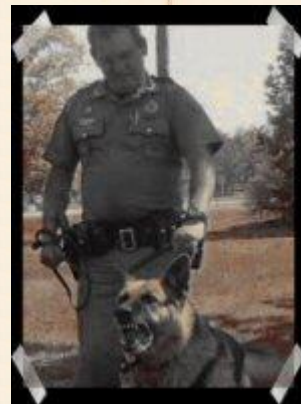
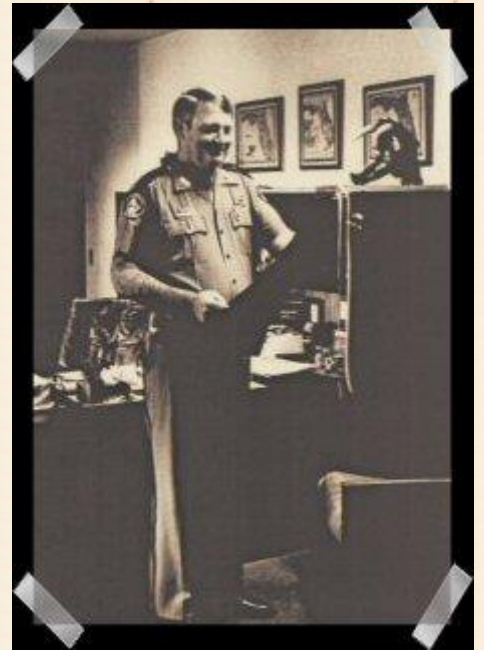
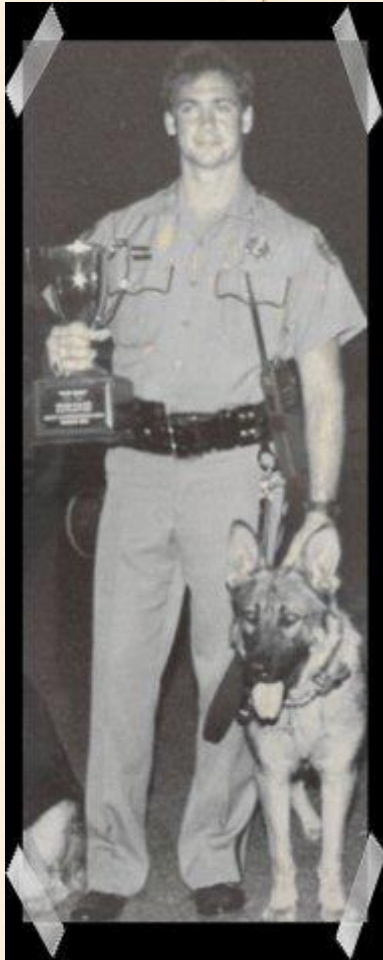
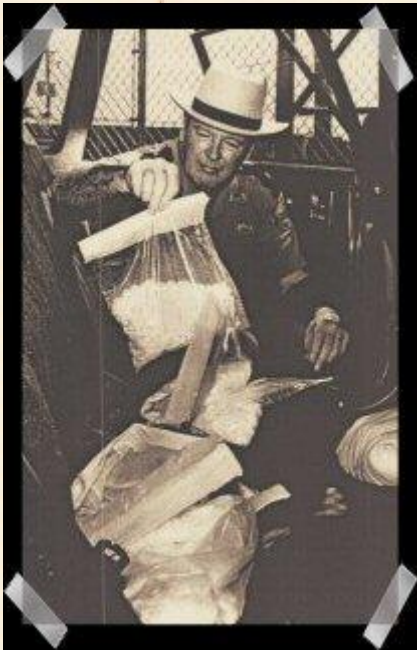
In between drug arrests, the trooper made 165 traffic arrests, investigated numerous traffic accidents, and saved the lives of two persons slumped in their car seats on the highway.

Stallworth, a 20-year veteran, developed the patrol's Felony Officer Program to fight drug trafficking in 1984.

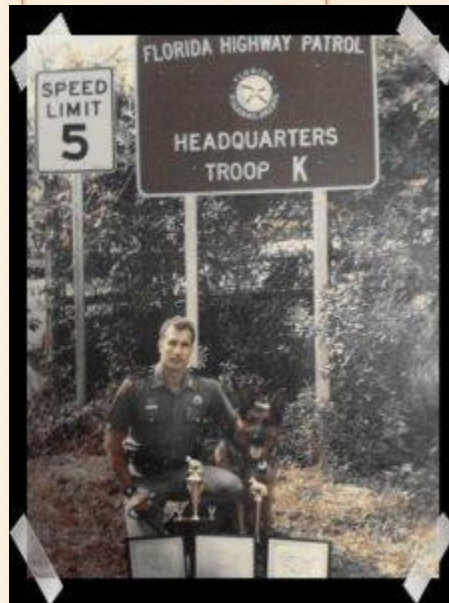
























Trooper George Kantor and Harry from the K-9 Unit tell campers about drug enforcement canines.



CANINE PATROL-Trooper George Kantor with one of the three German Shepherds now in training for Troop F's drug enforcement felony teams.

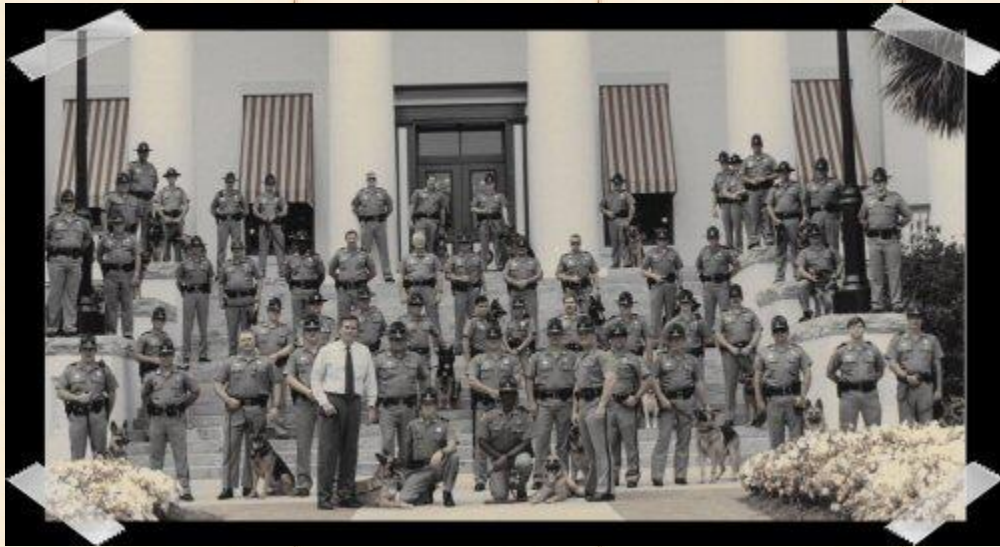


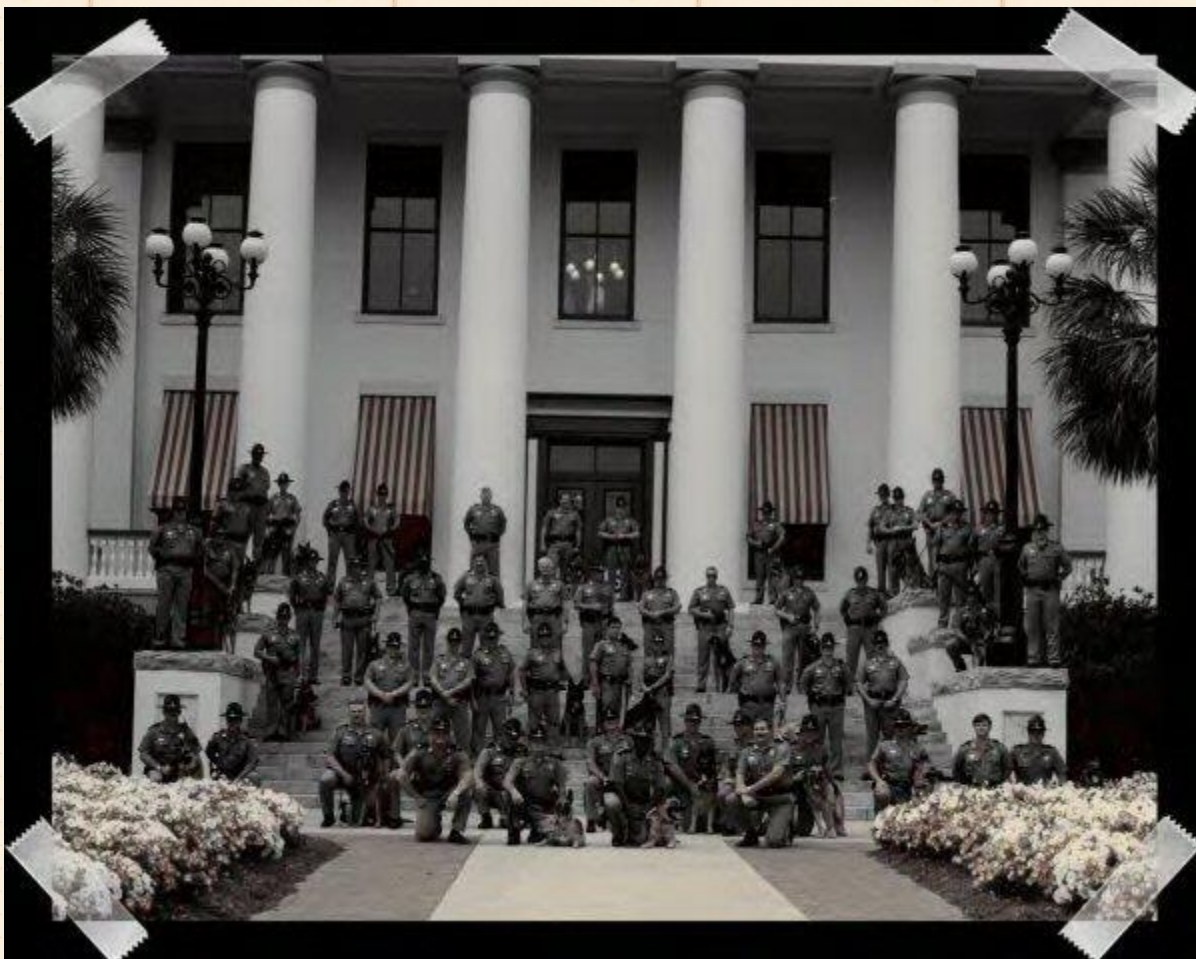
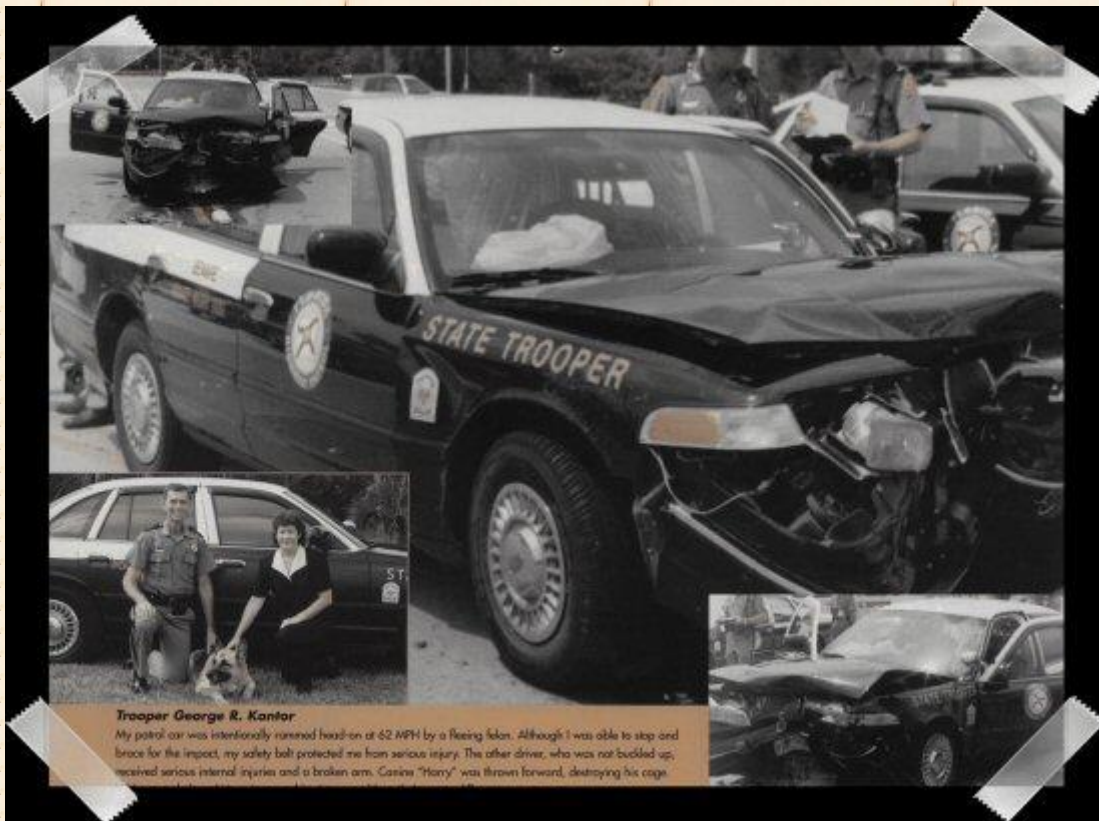
CANINE PATROL-Trooper Branzell Lawrence with a new Troop F "recruit" to fight drugs.



CANINE PATROL - Trooper Ricky Wells with one of three German Shepherds recently purchased directly from Germany.

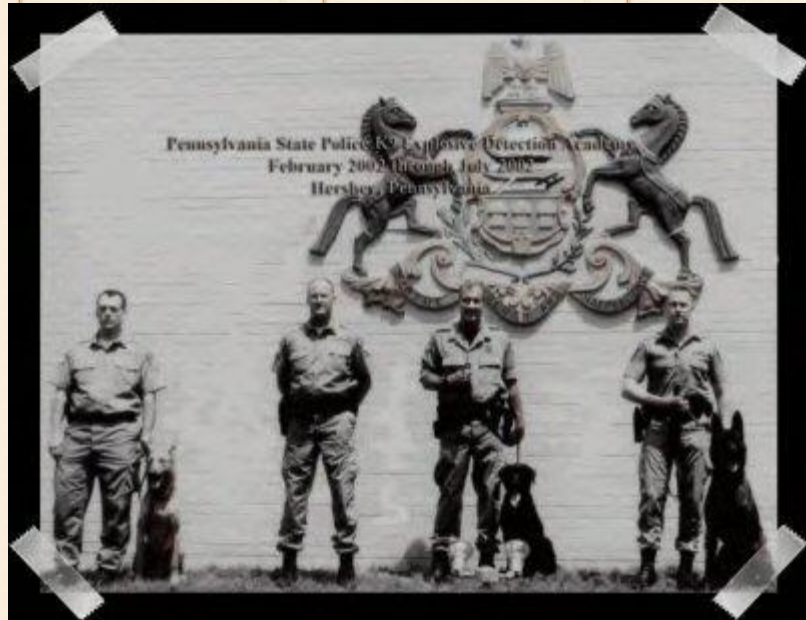




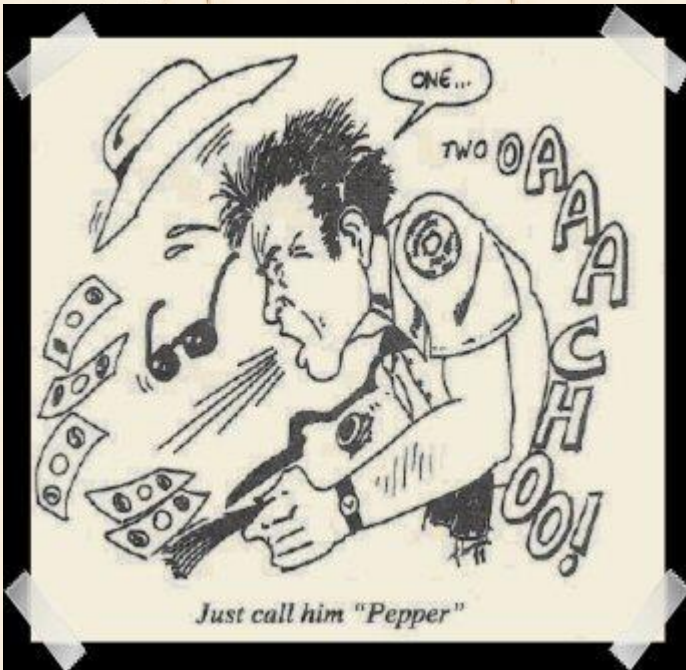








Trooper Sneezes, Counts, Sneezes, Counts ...



The next time you see Trooper K.A. Hardley you can call him by his street name, "Pepper".

Trooper Hardley stopped a vehicle on the Turnpike in late January for an obscured tag violation and ended up arresting the driver on an open violation of probation warrant and driving with a suspended license.

Harley's partner, Trooper Mike VanLeer responded to the scene and used his trusty K-9, Canto, to help locate a hidden compartment in the vehicle. A search revealed three bundles of cash, wrapped in duct tape, covered with black pepper!

Trooper VanLeer wasn't born yesterday so he advised Trooper Hardley that he could not assist in counting the money because of problems that may arise with Canto and his sensitive nose.

To make a long story short, after several boxes of Kleenex, many loud sneezes and gnashing of teeth, Trooper Hardley totaled \$69,800 in suspiciously wrapped packs, plus another \$1,800 found on the driver, for a grand total of \$71,600, plus he seized her car.

Canto's nose was spared, Mike VanLeer still has his sense of smell, and the legend of "Pepper" Hardley began. Good job guys!

Lieutenant Jim Howell
Troop K, FHP

Kudos for Troop E K-9 Squad



Troop E's canine squad was honored by the u.s. Customs Service for professionalism and dedication during a recent assignment.

Front row left to right, Captain Kevin Guidry, Sergeant John Fruchey, K-9 Candy, Asst. Special Agent in Charge c.c. Sauvage. Back row, Orlando Saavedra, Andy Smith, Mark Reitmann, Joe Mosca, Tom Maxwell and Special Agent in Charge Peter Girard. Not pictured: Trooper Alan Major.



[The 1st Training Academy](#)



[Retired Master Trooper Michael R. Van Leer](#)
[Statewide K9 Instructor/K9 Evaluator](#)

